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UNCLAS LIMA 004504

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR D, WHA, EB
USTR FOR B. HARMAN
DEPARTMENT PASS TO NSC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD ECON BINV EAGR PE
SUBJECT: TOLEDO AND URIBE ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT TO SUPPORT FTA

¶1. On October 17, we received a fax transmittal of a letter from President Toledo and President Uribe to President Bush regarding the subsequent conclusion of the U.S.-Andean FTA negotiations. Presidents Toledo and Uribe have instructed their negotiators to quickly conclude negotiations. As such, they propose that during the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata next month, President Bush, along with Presidents Toledo and Uribe, could announce the culmination of the FTA negotiations.

¶2. Begin Unofficial Translation:

Salamanca, 15 October 2005

Mr. President
George W. Bush

Dear Mr. President:

The negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and the three Andean beneficiaries of ATPDEA, a mechanism of solidarity that favors the Andean region in its fight against narcotrafficking, has progressed satisfactorily. The negotiations have already matured from the technical point of view; it is clear that the negotiations have advanced to their conclusion. With a firm political compromise, we have instructed our negotiators to conclude this agreement. We appreciate that you will instruct your negotiators to do the same.

The sides have made reciprocal concession, enabling us to conclude a majority of the issues. Nevertheless, we recognize that several pending issues remain. To resolve them, it would require our determined political will. Only in that way, we will find a satisfactory solution for the pending agricultural, intellectual property and biodiversity issues.

The Summit of the Americas, which will occur in Mar del Plata next month, would be a favorable location to announce together to the Governments of South America the culmination of the negotiations, giving a clear and fortunate signal of understanding between our countries.

Sincerely and with affection,

Alvaro Uribe Velez
President of Colombia

Alejandro Toledo
President of Peru

End Unofficial Translation

¶3. We will fax the original Spanish language and unofficial English translation to the Department immediately.

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